

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 8-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 were previously cancelled. In the Office Action dated June 15, 2006, the drawing figure was objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Claims 8-14 were objected to on the ground that the claims contain informalities. Claims 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the ground that the claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,781,024 ("Nakamura").

The June 15, 2006 Office Action and references cited therein have been carefully considered. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse the objections and rejections.

Drawings

The Office Action states two grounds for objection to the drawing. First, the Office Action asserts that radial apertures 8 are not shown in detail. Second, the Office Action states that it is unclear "whether the extension comprises to planar surfaces of if the surfaces are broken as shown broken . . . by the aperture labeled 8."

Applicants are unable to understand either ground for objection. With regard to the first ground, the specification states that the drawing figure is a "broken-out and cross-sectional view." (Sub. Spec., p. 5, line 15). A radial aperture 8 is shown in detail and labeled in this drawing. The extension is circumferential (Sub. Spec., p. 3, lines 10-11); therefore, the far sidewall of the aperture is shown staggered. Apertures 8 are further described in detail in the specification, which states, for example:

At the free end of this supporting rib 6, there are apertures 8 evenly distributed over the periphery and meant to avoid an inadvertent sealing between the supporting rib 6 and the wall 7 of groove 2 as well as ensuring a sufficiently large flow cross-section.

(Sub. Spec., p. 6, lines 21-26). Therefore, aperture 8 is adequately shown and described in detail.

The second ground for objection raises a question and then answers it. Applicants are uncertain as to how to respond, other than to agree that "the surfaces are broken as shown broken in the Figure."

Based on the foregoing, Applicants do not know what aspect of the drawing requires correction. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the requirement of a drawing correction be withdrawn, or further explanation provided on this issue.

Claim Objections

To expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to remove any perceived informalities related to the use of articles "a" and "the." These amendments are directed solely to form, not subject matter, and therefore add no new matter.

Regarding claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed subject matter is clear. The claim preamble recites a "sealing collar." The title of the application is "SEALING COLLAR." Moreover, the cylinder-and-piston unit is not positively recited in claim 8. Therefore, no correction is believed to be needed to claim 8. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 8 has been amended to recite "first and second sealing lips each having a free end, wherein the sealing collar includes a circumferential extension that extends in parallel to the sealing lips, is arranged radially between the first sealing lip and the second sealing lip and projects from the sealing lips in an axial direction beyond the free ends of the first and second sealing lips." Support for the amendment is provided in the drawing figure and page 5, lines 24-29 of the substitute specification, among other sections. No new matter has been added.

Nakamura does not disclose a sealing collar as claimed in amended claim 8. Instead, Nakamura discloses an outer lip 22b, an inner lip 22c and a center lip 22d, where the center lip 22d does not extend beyond the free ends of outer and inner lips. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8, as amended, is not anticipated by Nakamura.

Claims 9-14 are dependent on amended claim 8 and incorporate the all of the elements recited in amended claim 8. Therefore, claims 9-14 are allowable over Nakamura for at least the same reasons that claim 8 is allowable.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claim 15 to clarify features contemplated by the present invention. Claim 15 recites a sealing collar for a cylinder-and-piston unit, the sealing collar being configured for insertion into a groove extending in the cylinder-and-piston unit and comprising an outside sealing lip and an inside sealing lip, the outside and inside sealing lips each having a free end, the sealing collar further including a circumferential extension that extends in parallel to the sealing lips, is arranged radially between the outside sealing lip and the inside sealing lip and projects axially beyond the free ends of the outside and inside sealing lips, the circumferential extension being configured to contact a sidewall in the groove and maintain the free ends of the outside and inside sealing lips out of contact with the sidewall.

Support for new claim 15 is provided in the drawing figure and page 5, lines 24-29 of the substitute specification, among other sections. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in form for allowance. If the Examiner has any concern which precludes allowance at this time, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at 610-407-0700 to discuss any such concern.

Respectfully submitted,



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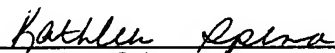
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